

International Union of Operating Engineers

LOCALS 542, 542-RA, 542-C, 542-D

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From the Office of the Business Manager

To all Members

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am reaching out to you to provide some assurance and stability regarding the coronavirus.

My phone, along with the phones of other Agents of the Union and Health and Welfare, have been ringing off the hook since last Saturday with general questions. Below are answers to the most frequently asked questions.

1. Does our Health and Welfare Fund have enough Funds to survive this crisis?

Answer: We have more than 20 months of reserves in our Health and Welfare Fund. Simply, if no work came in for the next 20 months we could survive!

2. Is our Supplemental Unemployment Fund (S.U.B). still going to be paid?

Answer: YES! While most of the office staff of the Local are working from home, we are still bringing in staff to pay the S.U.B.fund.

3. Will the S.U.B. Fund be raised?

Answer: YES! In April (Check Health and Welfare website, www.iuoe542funds.com) the S.U.B. will go to \$350 a week. While we have \$24 million in resources in this Fund, we are constantly exploring every option to provide for you the member.

4. Will I still get my Pension check with the Market in turmoil?

Answer: Yes. Even with the latest Market events the Pension Fund remains solid.

5. What if someone I am working with is infected by the Coronavirus? What are my responsibilities?

Answer: Presently in Pennsylvania and Delaware both Governors have ordered citizens to follow the guidelines of the Center of Disease Control (CDC) which requires anyone infected or associated with someone infected to “Self Quarantine” for 14 days. Therefore, you and your employer are required to notify the Hiring Hall that you may be infected with the Virus and to be placed on the “**NOT**” available list for 14 days. You should further get a test before reactivating your employment status. You further are not permitted to solicit work during this 14-day time period.

As a Trade Unionist, our history has shown we have endured difficult times since inception and have become stronger each time we have been challenged and attacked. Indeed, we will get through this crisis and hopefully come out stronger and more united.

We are asking all of you to look after your families, your union brothers and sisters and your neighbors as well. If you are sick, and feel the need to go to the hospital, please do! We do ask that you take into account that beds in the hospitals are limited. Those 65 and older will probably need those beds more so than a younger person. However, if you are under 65 and experiencing strong symptoms please take appropriate action and seek medical help!

We do want to note: Everyone's immune system is different. This Virus has proven that. For example, there are numerous of those who have tested positive and fully recovered! How they were compromised by this illness was surely different. Some have said they received nothing more than a runny nose, whereas, some say it knocked them off their feet for a day or two etc. Indeed, not all who contract the infection will have the same outcome.

For now, we ask all you to keep apprised of the Website (www.iuoe542.com) for updates along with our Health and Welfare website (www.iuoe542funds.com) for additional information.

Please pray for one another and the healing of the United States.

I close with a simple thought. Most of our Grandparents had to endure YEARS of a World War. We are just being asked for now, to take a week or two and sit on the couch. WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS!

God Bless, I remain fraternally yours,



Frank Bankard

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